

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vegetation trimmer head adapted to be rotatably driven by a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus, said vegetation trimmer head comprising:

a body including means for enabling releasable attachment of said body to a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus;

at least one passageway in said body for receiving a vegetation cutting member of finite length, said at least one passageway having a central axis;

at least one chamber in said body in communication with said at least one passageway, said at least one chamber having a tapered wall disposed at an acute angle with respect to said central axis; and

gripping means disposed in said at least one chamber, said gripping means comprising a plurality of semi-annular cleat members and means for biasing said cleat members into gripping engagement with a vegetation cutting member, wherein said cleat members are reciprocally movable in said chamber along said tapered wall at said acute angle and wherein said biasing means is disposed between said cleat members and an abutment associated with said chamber.

2. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 1 wherein said wherein said cleat members have outer surfaces that taper at an acute angle corresponding substantially to said acute angle.

3. The vegetation trimmer head of claim 2 wherein said cleat members have inner surfaces adapted to contact a vegetation cutting member and that extend substantially parallel to said central axis.

4. A vegetation trimmer apparatus comprising:  
an elongate handle;  
a motor connected to said handle; and  
a rotatable trimmer head connected to said handle and rotatably driven by said motor, said trimmer head comprising:

a body including means for enabling releasable attachment of said body to a drive shaft of a motorized vegetation trimmer apparatus;

at least one passageway in said body for receiving a vegetation cutting member of finite length, said at least one passageway having a central axis;

at least one chamber in said body in communication with said at least one passageway, said at least one chamber defining a tapered wall disposed at an acute angle with respect to said central axis; and

gripping means disposed in said at least one chamber, said gripping means comprising a plurality of semi-annular cleat members and means for biasing said cleat members into gripping engagement with a vegetation cutting member, wherein said cleat members are reciprocally movable in said chamber along said tapered wall at said acute angle and wherein said biasing means is disposed between said cleat members and an abutment associated with said chamber.

5. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wherein said cleat members have outer surfaces that

taper at an acute angle corresponding substantially to said acute angle.

6. The vegetation trimmer apparatus of claim 5 said cleat members have inner surfaces adapted to contact a vegetation cutting member and that extend substantially parallel to said central axis.